



# Minnesota Ag News - Labor



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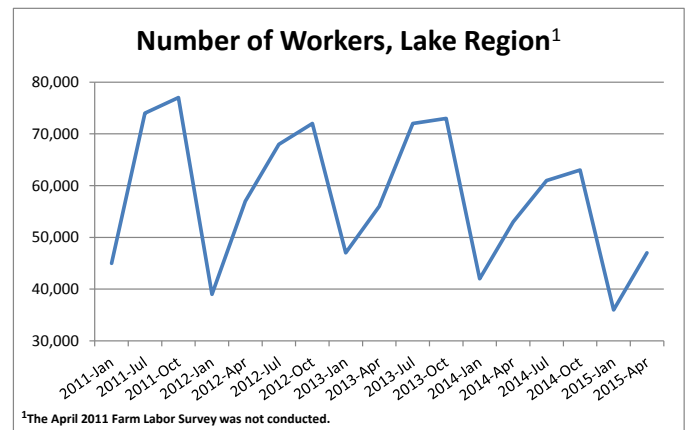
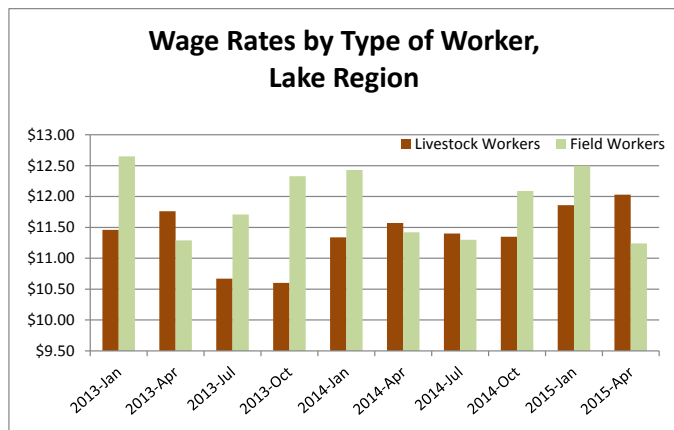
Cooperating with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

May 21, 2015

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There were 47,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) during the reference week of April 12-18, 2015, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor Report*. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$12.43 per hour, the second highest April wage rate since estimates began in 1989, just \$0.25 below the 2012 rate. The number of hours worked averaged 37.1 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 36.9 hours in April 2014.

During the reference week of January 11-17, 2015, there were 36,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.) Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$12.87 per hour during the January 2015 reference week, the second highest January rate on record, \$0.12 below the 2012 rate. The number of hours worked averaged 36.5 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 36.1 hours in January 2014.



## Hired Workers and Wage Rates – Lake Region and United States: 2014-2015

[Lake Region includes Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin]

|                                            | Lake Region |              |            | United States |              |            |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
|                                            | April 2014  | January 2015 | April 2015 | April 2014    | January 2015 | April 2015 |
| Hired Workers on Farms..... 1,000 workers  | 53          | 36           | 47         | 690           | 549          | 687        |
| Hours worked by Hired Workers ..... hrs/wk | 36.9        | 36.5         | 37.1       | 40.1          | 39.2         | 39.9       |
| Wage Rate by Work Type <sup>1</sup>        |             |              |            |               |              |            |
| Field .....\$/hr                           | 11.42       | 12.50        | 11.24      | 11.02         | 11.40        | 11.34      |
| Livestock .....\$/hr                       | 11.57       | 11.86        | 12.03      | 11.35         | 11.69        | 11.58      |
| Field & Livestock .....\$/hr               | 11.50       | 12.00        | 11.68      | 11.12         | 11.52        | 11.42      |
| All Hired Workers..... \$/hr               | 12.23       | 12.87        | 12.43      | 12.01         | 12.53        | 12.27      |

<sup>1</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

## UNITED STATES LABOR

There were 687,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 12-18, 2015, down less than 1 percent from the April 2014 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 549,000 during the week of January 11-17, 2015, up 2 percent from the January 2014 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.27 per hour during the April 2015 reference week, up 2 percent from the April 2014 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$11.34 per hour, an increase of 3 percent. Livestock workers earned \$11.58 per hour, up 2 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.42 per hour, was up 3 percent from the 2014 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 39.9 hours during the April 2015 reference week, compared with 40.1 hours worked during the April 2014 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.53 per hour during the January 2015 reference week, up 2 percent from the January 2014 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$11.40 per hour, up 3 percent, while livestock workers earned \$11.69 per hour, up 3 percent from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.52 per hour, was up 3 percent from the January 2014 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 39.2 hours during the January 2015 reference week, compared with 38.9 hours worked during the January 2014 reference week.

For the April 2015 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the 2014 reference week occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions. The Mountain III region saw the largest increase, with 38 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2014 reference week occurred in Florida, Hawaii, and the Northeast I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) region. Florida saw the biggest decline, with workers down 22 percent from the 2014 reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions. January Reference Week

For the January 2015 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the January 2014 reference week occurred in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions. The Cornbelt II region saw the largest increase, with 62 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2014 reference week occurred in Hawaii, and the Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), and Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) regions. The Delta region saw the biggest decline, employing 23 percent less workers during the 2015 reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Appalachian II, and Delta regions.